

OBITUARY

Sir PETER KERLEY

KCVO, CBE, MD, FRCP, FRCS, DMRE

Sir Peter Kerley, consulting radiologist to Westminster Hospital and the National Heart Hospital, died at his home on 15 March. He was 78.

Peter James Kerley was born on 27 October 1900 at Dundalk in southern Ireland. Qualifying



in 1923, he moved in the following year to Vienna, then the centre of the relatively new science of radiology. On his return he took the DMRE at Cambridge and began his long and highly successful career as a radiologist. In 1932, at the age of 32, he was awarded the MD

of the University of Ireland, and in 1939 became a founder member of the Faculty of Radiologists. During his years as a major in the RAMC he was elected FRCP in 1943 and the following year received the Roentgen award of the British Institute of Radiology. Between 1952 and 1955 he was president of the faculty of Radiologists, and in 1962 was honoured as the St Cyres lecturer. In 1976 the Royal College of Radiology awarded him its gold medal, and only last year he was present at the first Pergamon-Kerley lecture at the college. He was adviser in radiology to the Ministry of Health and an honorary fellow of the American College of Radiology, the Australian College of Radiology, and the Faculty of Radiologists of Ireland.

Peter Kerley was the radiologist in the team, led by Sir Clement Price Thomas, who attended King George VI. He was awarded the CBE in 1951, the CVO in 1952, and the KCVO in 1972. His industry was prodigious. He was editor of the *Journal of the Faculty of Radiologists* and author of many original papers. As joint author and editor of a *Textbook of X-ray Diagnosis* he established this work as the definitive text on radiology for many years. His most telling contribution was undoubtedly his description of the so-called A, B, and C lines he observed on the chest x-ray films of patients suffering from various degrees of cardiac failure and raised venous pressure. This opened a new chapter in investigative radiology, and "Kerley's lines" became a legend in the founder's lifetime. He was a natural radiologist with a keen eye and a mercurial mind. He was fascinated by the rare diagnosis and often, it seemed, achieved success by intuition rather than deduction.

As a man Peter Kerley was a character in every way, with an enormous sense of fun, an impish wit, and an infectious sense of humour. He was a great bon viveur and a raconteur without peer. Laughter accompanied him on

every social occasion. He loved fishing and shooting and was an accomplished golfer. He was a devoted member of the Travellers Club and a loyal and popular member of White's. Peter Kerley was colourful to a degree. With his departure an era departs and we shall not see the like again. His wife died in 1973 and he is survived by two daughters.—BS.

TL writes: Peter Kerley had a brilliant and original mind with a positive flair for making accurate and at times extraordinary diagnoses, particularly in chest radiology. His approach was intuitive rather than deductive, but he valued close co-operation with the pathologist. He taught more by the written than the spoken word and a natural talent for expression was reflected in the editorships of two journals and two major textbooks. His recent *Advances in Radiology* is still a delight to read, because he never made the mistake of describing radiology in pathological terms. Although by nature an individualist, he co-operated very fruitfully with Sir Clement Price Thomas and with his co-authors in the major textbook. His CBE in 1951 recognised his considerable efforts in establishing mass radiography in Britain. Above all, Peter Kerley had style and was a popular figure in his hospital and his clubs.

FDH writes: Peter Kerley was a brilliant radiologist, a highly intelligent, original-minded man, and a most delightful and warm-hearted person to his many friends. Honours came his way from many parts of the world, but he is probably best known to most doctors as the co-editor with Cochrane Shanks of his world famous six-volume *Textbook of X-ray Diagnosis*. He had an encyclopaedic memory that enabled him to make on occasion outrageous x-ray diagnoses that to everybody's surprise often turned out to be correct. He was an original, almost a vital force, and a loyal, warm-hearted friend to many. He will be very greatly missed. By his death not only diagnostic radiology but medicine in Britain has suffered a great loss.

R H LITTLE

MB, BS

Dr R H Little, who was formerly in general practice at Ringwood, Hampshire, died suddenly on 5 March at his home at Ringwood. He was 77.

Reginald Hicks Little was born at Hanwell, Middlesex, in 1901 and educated at Cranleigh. He was a medical student at St Thomas's Hospital and qualified in 1923. After house appointments at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth, and Lord Mayor Treloar's Hospital, Alton, he settled down in general practice at Ringwood in 1928 and practised there until his retirement in 1963. A most conscientious doctor, he was greatly loved and respected by his patients and became a leading figure in the life of the local community. For

many years he was medical officer to the police and did all the coroners' postmortems. He served on the Hampshire local medical committee, and for many years was its chairman. His advice and help were constantly being sought by his younger colleagues, to whom he was always a true guide, counsellor, and friend. His main interest outside medicine was in local history, and he contributed articles regularly to a local newspaper and several journals. His last article was written only the day before he died. Always cheerful and good company, he will be greatly missed by his many friends and old patients. He is survived by his wife Joan and by two daughters and a son.—GDD.

WILLIAM BOYD

CC, MD, FRCP, FRCS Canada

Professor William Boyd, whose textbooks of pathology have helped generations of students, has died at the age of 93. He was formerly professor of pathology at the University of British Columbia.

William Boyd was born at Edinburgh on 21 June 1885 and educated at Trent College,



Derbyshire, and Edinburgh University, where he graduated in medicine in 1908. After working at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary he became a medical officer at Derby Borough Asylum. In 1911 he proceeded MD with gold medal, took the diploma in psychiatry, and

then, as the post was vacant, became pathologist to Winwick Asylum at Warrington. In 1913-14 he was pathologist to the Royal Wolverhampton Hospital. On the outbreak of the first world war he joined the Army and served in France as captain, 3rd Field Ambulance, until 1915, when he emigrated to Canada. There he joined the pathology department of the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, and became its professor.

In 1920, having drafted the first chapters of a proposed textbook on surgical pathology, he submitted them to W B Saunders, the publishers. These were rejected, but Boyd, undismayed, continued to write his book and completed it in five years, working mostly in spare time at the end of his busy days in the university department. Dr William Mayo contributed a foreword, and this possibly helped the publisher to accept the manuscript of an unknown pathologist at Winnipeg. *Surgical Pathology* came out in 1925, and by 1967 had reached its eighth edition with its title changed to *Pathology for the Surgeon*.

Another important book of his, *The Pathology of Internal Diseases*, was published by Lea and Febiger in 1931 and by 1965 was in its sixth edition, retitled *Pathology for the Physician*. In 1932 appeared *A Textbook of Pathology* (eighth edition 1970). The sixth edition of his *Introduction to the Study of Disease* was published in 1971.

Boyd found that students and practising surgeons liked his books, but professors seemed to find them too unorthodox, and attempts were even made to ban his books from some Canadian schools. He thought that this was because, with his interest in the living body, he did not go into morphology as deeply as did the older texts. He did not follow the tradition that made textbooks of pathology mere accounts of diseased tissues found in the dead, but related his findings to disorders in living patients. He had begun as a psychiatrist and had not been taught pathology in the usual formal manner. Rather he learnt it in daily contact with clinicians and patients, and indeed his textbooks are a record of the developments in morphology, biochemistry, and function that occurred in medicine during his long lifetime.

In 1932 he was elected FRCP London. He was professor of pathology and bacteriology at the University of Toronto from 1937 to 1951 and then professor of pathology at the University of British Columbia until 1953, where he helped to found the school of medicine at Vancouver. During his retirement he lived at Toronto, devoting much of his time to his garden and to the revision of his books. In 1962 he was awarded the gold-headed cane of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists. In 1966 he became the first Sir Henry Wade professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and in 1968 he was made a Companion of the Order of Canada. He married Enid Christie in 1919.

Lieutenant-General Sir NORMAN TALBOT

KBE, TD, MD, FRCOG, DA, late RAMC(Ret)

Lieutenant-General Sir Norman Talbot died on 27 February. He was 65.

Norman Graham Guy Talbot was born at Hastings on 16 February 1914 and educated at Great Yarmouth and Reigate grammar schools and King's College, London University. He qualified in 1937, took the MB, BS in 1938, and entered the specialty of his choice through house and junior obstetric registrar appointments at King's College Hospital. While waiting for these appointments he was a house anaesthetist and obtained the DA in 1939. Commissioned into the RAMC (TA) in 1938 he was called to active service in 1939 as RMO to the Finsbury Rifles. Thence he was appointed a specialist anaesthetist to a general hospital in the BEF and served in this capacity in France and in field medical units in Egypt, Palestine, Syria, and Sicily. Eventually he left this



specialty to become commandant of the British Increment to the Medical Mission, National Army of Liberation of Yugoslavia, and OC Gruno Military Hospital. Later he commanded two general hospitals in Italy and ended the war as ADMS GHQ Central Mediterranean Forces.

Returning to Britain in 1947, now a regular officer who had been twice mentioned in dispatches and appointed OBE, he set about picking up the threads of his professional career. He obtained the diploma in obstetrics in 1950 and the MRCOG in 1951. In the latter year he began a long association with the Louise Margaret Maternity Hospital, Aldershot, to which he was appointed consultant and also adviser in his specialty to the War Office. He served in these dual capacities until 1958, proceeding MD in 1953. In 1958 he went as consultant to the military hospital in Malta, where he and his family spent a happy and relaxed three years. He was elected FRCOG in 1960, after which followed two years as a military hospital consultant in BAOR before returning to Aldershot as consultant and Ministry of Defence adviser in 1963. He left clinical medicine in 1966 and rose rapidly up the administrative ladder, from commanding the Cambridge Military Hospital to DDMS (brigadier) HQ 1st (British) Corps in 1967 and to commandant and director of studies, Royal Army Medical College, as major-general, in 1968. Appointed honorary surgeon to the Queen in 1968, he finally became Director-General of Army Medical Services in 1969 with the rank of lieutenant-general and advancement to KBE.

During his four years as DGAMS he dedicated his efforts to the benefit of all those who came into the care of the Army medical services and to the officers, men, and women of the RAMC, RADC, and QARANC who provided the care. He regularly undertook strenuous series of visits to medical installations throughout Britain and Commonwealth and allied countries, during which he never failed to listen to the views of junior as well as senior ranks and did much to strengthen the bonds of friendship with Commonwealth and allied military medical services. Sadly he fell ill when on the point of retiring and never fully recovered, but for several years he held the appointment of medical director to the Margaret Pyke Centre in Bloomsbury. Norman Talbot was a quiet, dignified man and a true Christian in his complete selflessness. Beneath the surface lurked a somewhat impish sense of humour, and in the privacy of his office or home he could make a most amusing story of the dilemma in which he sometimes found himself. As a clinician he enjoyed the highest reputation, while as a natural leader he had the trust, support, and affection of all those who served with him. The tasks to which he gave a tremendous amount of his time were lightened by the happiest of marriages to Winifred, whose love and constant support he enjoyed for 42 years. She survives him, with two sons and a daughter.—RJG.

P B R WILLIAMS

TD, MB, CHB

Dr P B R Williams, who was formerly in community medicine at Droitwich, Worcestershire, died at his home on 19 March. He was 69.

Patrick Bertram Rotheroe Williams was born at Coleraine, Ulster, in 1910 and educated at Coleraine Academical Institute, Blackrock

College, and Aberdeen University. He graduated in medicine in 1939 in time to serve in the RAMC throughout the second world war. He served mainly in Palestine and India and was medical officer to the 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment. After the war he held a succession of appointments, working in hospitals, in general practice, and in HM Prison Service. His love of the Army stayed with him, and he served in the Territorial Army and the Army Emergency Reserve, being granted the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1959 he joined the Worcestershire County Health Department and worked as a clinical medical officer until his retirement. After this he continued with part-time work for the health authority, where he retained many friends. His interests were simple, and walking through the countryside brought him much joy. Patrick Bertram was a great character who influenced many people for good in his way of life. He is survived by his wife Kathleen and by his son, who is also a doctor.—PW.

Sir JOHN GOODHART

MA, MB, BCHIR, FRCGP

Sir John Goodhart, who was in general practice at Bromley, Kent, died on 13 January. He was 62.

John Gordon Goodhart was educated at Rugby School and Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

He qualified with the Conjoint diploma from Guy's Hospital in 1941 and after holding house appointments at Guy's saw war-time service in the Royal Navy. At the end of the war he returned to Guy's and took the Cambridge MB, BChir in 1947. Later that



year he entered general practice at Bromley in partnership with W S Hunt. He served on the Kent local medical committee, where he was a highly respected member, for many years. After the reorganisation in 1974 he became chairman of the Bromley local medical committee at its inception and held this office until he retired in 1978 because of ill health. He was also chairman of the area medical committee and a member of the area medical team. He gave many years of service to all these committees.

In 1961, on the death of his uncle Sir Ernest Goodhart, John Goodhart succeeded to the baronetcy that had been created in 1911 for his grandfather James Goodhart, physician to Guy's Hospital. But it was as Dr Goodhart that Sir John continued to be known to his patients, and this was his wish. He had a strong sense of the importance of service in his work, and it was always his patients' needs that guided his judgment. He looked upon general practice as family doctoring and considered that the continuity of a one doctor/patient/family relationship was the ideal. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and son. It gave him much pleasure when in 1976 his son Robert joined the partnership at Bromley.—JGPH.